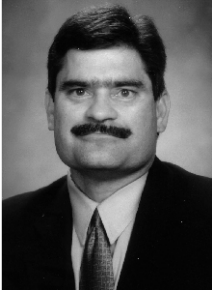


Health Director

A Message From the Health Director



Bruce D. Dart, PhD
Health Director

I am pleased to present the 2009 Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Annual Report. While H1N1 response was the predominant public health event "in the news", the department continued to provide a variety of services to the community in addition to the on-going response to the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic. I sincerely encourage everyone to review this report to develop a greater understanding of all the services the Health Department provides to our citizens.

As Lincoln and Lancaster County continues its growth in population and diversity, the Department has responded to emergent needs throughout our community by raising expectations among staff to develop skills in areas that were not part of their formal education, including informatics, communications, cultural competency, community engagement, and policy development. This has resulted in a growing awareness within the community of who we are, what we do, and the various ways we serve all of our citizens.

Our services have touched the lives of every resident of Lincoln and Lancaster County in the past year. Public health activities promoted healthy lifestyles while public health messages in the media helped educate and modify lifestyle choices. Public health actions helped ensure air, water, and food safety and prevent exposure to environmental risks. Preparedness actions and collaboration with community agencies and citizens helped lessen the potential impact of the H1N1 pandemic. Enhancing our public health system would help us improve pregnancy outcomes, infant mortality, and life span expectancies. It would further our efforts toward helping all citizens to live healthy, productive lives. The citizens we serve care about one another; it is becoming the hallmark of our culture and our community. We pledge to continue this journey we've started towards healthy, quality lifestyles where all of us reach our full potential by ensuring public health is there for everyone, everyday, everywhere.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce D. Dart".

Bruce D. Dart, PhD
Health Director

[Home Page](#)

Mission

Protect and promote
the public's health

Vision

A well-supported
public health
system serving all
people to achieve
optimal health

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